



**Johanna Rienstra**  
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# View on Fallingbrook

Johanna Rienstra, Broker, *the 'Double Dutch Team*

Royal LePage Frank Real Estate  
dbldutch@rogers.com

905-668-0040 1-866-273-1333  
movetogta.com

**March 2010**

## TOOLBOX ESSENTIALS FOR EVERY HOMEOWNER

### SCREWDRIVER

It's hard to find any project that doesn't require screws. This includes putting up blinds, most minor plumbing repairs, hanging a shelf or fixing a doorknob.

At the top of your list of essential tools should be a screwdriver with interchangeable bits - two different size flat and Phillips heads.

The bits fit into the handle and the end of the shaft is a hex driver which fits the size of the bolts on stoves and other appliances.

Many home repair experts say a hand screwdriver is not enough. They recommend a cordless power drill-driver and a bit set that include screwdriver heads.

### HAMMERS

They come in different weights and sizes. Some have straight claws, some have curved claws, some have no claws at all.

Most carpenters prefer the straight claw, mainly because you can use it to rip things apart. It's good for demolition work, and is also generally easier to pry with.

Simply choose the weight of hammer that feels most comfortable in your hand and pick up a small, five-ounce tack hammer for hanging pictures.



### PLIERS

Pliers are gripping tools, good for pulling nails, cutting wire, or cutting electrical wires.

Pick up a set that includes standard pliers, needle-nose pliers and wire cutters.

### WRENCHES

There's always something you're going to have to turn that doesn't have a screw on it.

In an adjustable wrench, the jaws can be opened and closed to fit the object to be turned.

Choose one big enough to do a few plumbing repairs, such as unscrewing the trap under the sink when it gets clogged.

### UTILITY KNIFE

With a utility knife, you can cut anything from cardboard to packaging to duct tape, plastic sheeting, and floor tile. You'll also be able to cut carpet and drywall, and scrape caulk.

Safety is an important consideration: you want to make sure that the blade can retract. Also, be sure to choose a knife that will allow you to replace the blades without disassembling the knife.

### SPRING IN DURHAM HOUSING MARKET

Durham Region Association of REALTORS® reports February sales have been brisk in the Durham Region.

Although slightly lower than January, February's average selling price for resale home purchases was \$289,195, still 9% higher than reported for the same period in 2009 and confirming that the Durham Region housing market is indeed a part of the Greater GTA's economic recovery.

February also offered an increase in active listings but still a significant decline from February of 2009. Year-to-date total active listings available in Durham Region are down 30% from last year, "annual growth in new listings is expected to continue through 2010" said Dierdre Mullen, President of Durham Regional Association of REALTORS®, "and with this increase in available properties will come a more stabilized rate of price growth within the housing market."

### YOUR FALLINGBROOK SUBDIVISION

Currently For Sale: 4

Avg. List Price: \$ 384,900

Low: \$ 354,800

High: \$ 425,000

Sold in 2010: 5

Avg Sale Price: \$ 303,080

Low: \$ 250,000

High: \$ 363,400

Avg. % of List: 100 %

Fallingbrook Subdivision Stats as of March 2, 2010

# SPRING CLEANING COMES NATURALLY

Did you know that your home can sparkle this spring without using any chemicals? Choose from a wide arrange of eco friendly cleaners on the market or simply make your own with household ingredients such as vinegar, baking soda, and lemon juice. Here are a few tips to help you become a natural when it comes to spring cleaning.

## ***The Bathroom***

Create a gentle scouring paste by mixing 4 tbsp baking soda with 1 tbsp water. Generously sprinkle either table salt or baking soda into the sink or tub and use the cut end of half a fresh lemon as a scrubby-pad. Rinse with hot water and your ceramics will be gleaming! Undiluted lemon juice can also be used to dissolve soap scum and hard water deposits.

## **The Kitchen**

Vinegar, a natural antibacterial, has a high acid content which makes it an effective alternative to caustic cleaners for the kitchen. Mix together 1 part water to 1 part vinegar in a new spray bottle and you have a natural solution that will clean stovetops, appliances, countertops (except marble), and floors. For troublesome stains, add a touch of baking soda to the mix.

To help remove finger marks from stainless steel appliances use a microfibre cloth or try a dab of baby oil on a clean cloth. For microwaves, put a few slices of fresh lemon in an uncovered bowl of water and cook on high for about three minutes. Grease and dirt should wipe away easily.



## ***Windows***

Let the sunshine in by washing away winter's grime. Fill a bucket with 25 per cent vinegar and 75 per cent warm water. Put on rubber gloves and soak an old cotton towel in the solution. Rub on windows, and then scrunch up some old newspaper to buff up a shine. If there are any streaks, simply finish off with a dry cloth.

## ***Fabrics and Carpets***

Have a stubborn fabric stain? Dab white vinegar onto the stain followed by a mild soap solution such as all natural dishwashing liquid and water. Rinse with a clean damp cloth and blot with a dry towel. Salt can also be used to soak up fresh carpet stains such as red wine, coffee, or ink. Simply pour salt on the wet stain, let dry and then vacuum. Natural ingredients can not only get rid of stains, they'll help eliminate odours from fabrics too!

## ***Community Happenings***

### **DAFFODIL DAYS WEEKEND** Mar 25th - Mar 28th.

Join the fight against cancer by buying a bunch of daffodils for \$7 a bunch or 2 bunches for \$12. Volunteers will be selling at most large retailers in the Durham Region.

### **GIRLS DAY OUT**

Sat., March 27th @ 11:00 a.m. Trafalgar Castle School  
A day women ages 19 and up can try out new activities from chocolate making and martini mixing to belly dancing and karate. Includes lunch, silent auction, and more.  
<http://www.girlsinc-durham.org>

### **Easter Egg Hunt for kids**

Sun. April 4th @ 1 p.m. Whitby Marina  
Come for a fun day 10K & 5K run & the kids 1K easter egg hunt run. Medals/t-shirts/refreshments.  
[www.runningroom.com](http://www.runningroom.com)

## ***Kid's Corner***

